

USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE GUIDE

May 12, 2009



California producers who have experienced losses due to natural disasters can use this guide to examine recovery assistance options available under the 2008 Farm Bill. USDA agencies in California are working together to help producers manage risk and recover when natural disasters adversely impact operations. To find your nearest local office, visit the websites or call the numbers shown for USDA agencies.

CROP / LIVESTOCK LOSSES, LOANS

Farm Service Agency

www.fsa.usda.gov/ca



2008 Farm Bill disaster programs are shown below. NOTE: Regulations for some of these new programs are still being completed. Not all programs apply to all disasters. SURE, ELAP, TAP and LFP (grazed land only) all require prior NAP or Crop Insurance coverage to be eligible. For more detail contact your nearest FSA office.

SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance provides payment for revenue losses in Secretarial Disaster Designated Counties (and contiguous counties) or for farms with a 50% production loss due to natural disaster.

EM - Emergency Loan Program provides low interest loans to producers in Presidential or Secretarial Disaster Declared counties (and contiguous counties.) Up to \$500,000, terms up to 40 years.

LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program provides payment for feed losses due to drought on grazed land designated by D2 or higher for eight weeks by the Drought Monitor. Wildfire losses on Federally-managed land also eligible.

(Continued on page 2)

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2008/index.html or



EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection program provides technical and financial assistance to help people and protect property following natural disasters. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) works with emergency response teams to survey damages done to the watershed and to identify the immediate threats to life and property. The EWP program may help communities in eligible fire-scarred watersheds recover and protect life and property threatened by the erosion or floods

(Continued on page 2)

INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Risk Management Agency

www.rma.usda.gov



CI - Crop Insurance is available to producers through commercial insurance brokers to reduce the risk of loss due to adverse events like natural disasters. Producers interested in crop insurance need to contact any Approved Insurance Providers (AIPs) or agent listed at <http://www.rma.usda.gov/tools/agent.html>. Producers may select their

(Continued on page 2)

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL USDA OFFICE OR CALL:

Farm Service Agency
530-792-5520

Natural Resources Conservation Service
530-792-5600

Risk Management Agency
530-792-5870

CROP LOSS PROGRAMS (FSA)

- SURE - Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments
- TAP - Tree Assistance Program
- ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish
- ECP - Emergency Conservation Program
- NAP-Crop - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (FSA)

LIVESTOCK / FORAGE LOSS PROGRAMS (FSA)

- LFP - Livestock Forage Disaster Program
- LIP - Livestock Indemnity Payments
- NAP-Forage- Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (FSA)

LOANS / INSURANCE PROGRAMS (FSA / RMA)

- EM - Emergency Loan Program (FSA)
- CI - Crop Insurance Program (RMA)

CONSERVATION / TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (NRCS)

- EWP - Emergency Watershed Protection
- CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance

USDA DISASTER ASSISTANCE GUIDE

Farm Service Agency - continued

LIP - Livestock Indemnity Payments provides financial assistance for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality due to natural disasters.

NAP - Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program provides payments for crop or grazing feed losses in excess of 50% for crops that are not covered by a federal crop insurance program. Available to enrolled participants.

TAP - Tree Assistance Program provides up to 70% cost share assistance for tree, vines and bush crop losses in excess of 15% due to natural causes.

ELAP - Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees and Farm-Raised Fish provides assistance for significant losses (yet to be determined).

ECP - Emergency Conservation Program provides a cost share assistance for conservation-related repairs due to natural disaster.

RISK MANAGEMENT and DISASTER PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for **SURE**, **LFP** and **TAP** Programs, producers must be covered by Crop Insurance (**CI**) or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (**NAP**). All crops produced in all counties must be covered. (For LFP, only grazed land must be covered.)

To ensure eligibility at the beginning of each crop season, be aware of your commercial crop insurance deadlines and your NAP deadlines. For details, call or visit your nearest FSA office or visit www.fsa.usda.gov/ca.

Natural Resources Conservation Service - continued

that frequently follow fires. All projects require a government sponsor. For more details and to apply visit your nearest NRCS office.

CTA - Conservation Technical Assistance is available to farmers, ranchers, tribes, and communities interested in sustaining agricultural production goals while enhancing, conserving, and improving their natural resources and the environment. All services and programs are voluntary, non-regulatory, free of charge and offered statewide. NRCS Programs offer these advantages ■ Planning for conservation on your farm or ranch ■ Financial & technical assistance ■ Information on soils, water, plants, wildlife, and air ■ Soil management ■ Water conservation and irrigation water management.

Risk Management Agency - continued

coverage level from 50% to 85% for selected crops to protect against losses from weather related events, insects, diseases and wildlife. Since crop insurance is federally subsidized, USDA will pay from 38% to 67% of the coverage level. Based on the 2008 Farm Bill, farmers must be enrolled in crop insurance or the FSA administered NAP program to qualify for disaster payments.

Sales closing dates (SCD) vary by crop, state, and county so producers should consult a crop insurance agent to discuss their insurance options. **Contact your crop insurance agent for SCD deadlines.** For a short explanation of key dates in the insurance cycle, go to http://www.rma.usda.gov/policies/cycle/insurance_cycle_g.html.

OTHER DISASTER RECOVERY RESOURCES

USDA-Rural Development
530-792-5800

US Small Business Administration
800-659-2955

American Ag Credit
800-800-4865

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Office of Emergency Services
916-845-8149

California Department of Food and Agriculture
916-654-0462

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its program and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.